

**Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116****Applicant:** Brent M. Bradburn**Serial No.:** 09/753,170**Filed:** January 2, 2001**Docket No.:** 10002892-1**Title:** PIXEL PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR IMAGE PRODUCTION**REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 12, 2004, in which claims 2-20 and 24-29 were allowed, and claims 1, 21, 22, 23, and 30 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 1 and 30 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claims 1-30, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 21, 22, 23, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,453,068 to Li.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that if the target pixel value is less than the minimum value, then the method includes increasing the target pixel value and, in response to increasing the target pixel value, reducing at least one of the neighbor pixel values, and clarify that if the target pixel value is greater than the maximum value, then the method includes reducing the target pixel value and, in response to reducing the target pixel value, increasing at least one of the neighbor pixel values. In addition, independent claim 30 has been amended to clarify that the system includes means for increasing the target pixel value if the target pixel value is less than the minimum value and reducing at least one of the neighbor pixel values in response to increasing the target pixel value, and includes means for reducing the target pixel value if the target pixel value is greater than the maximum value and increasing at least one of the neighbor pixel values in response to reducing the target pixel value.

With respect to the Li patent, this patent does not teach or suggest a method of operating a pixel processing system, as claimed in amended independent claim 1, nor a pixel processing system, as claimed in amended independent claim 30.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 30 are patentably distinct from the Li patent and, therefore, are in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 21-23 further define patentably distinct claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent claims 21-23 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 21, 22, 23, and 30 under 35

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U.S.C. 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1, 21, 22, 23, and 30 be allowed.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 2-20 and 24-29 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the indicated allowance of claims 2-20 and 24-29.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-30 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Larry D. Baker at Telephone No. (360) 212-0769, Facsimile No. (858) 655-5859 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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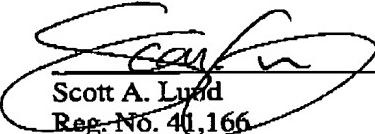
Respectfully submitted,

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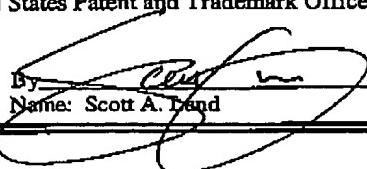
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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2004.

  
By Scott A. Lund  
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